MEMORANDUM

TO: Prequalified Offerers
           Potential Prequalified Offerers

FROM: Susan Smith
           Director

DATE :   May 9, 2006

RE: **Hudson Initiative**
           State of Louisiana's Small Entrepreneurship Program

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION?

- Are you a Louisiana domiciled business?
- Do you have less than fifty (50) full-time employees?
- Are your annual gross revenue receipts $5,000,000 or less (for construction) or $3,000,000 for (non-construction) for each of the previous 3 tax years?

If your answers are yes, your company may be eligible for participation in the Louisiana Small Entrepreneurship Program, referred to as the Hudson Initiative.

WHAT IS THE SMALL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM?

This Small Entrepreneurship Program was created by Act 440 during the 2005 regular legislative session to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana-based small entrepreneurships to participate in contracting and procurement with the State of Louisiana. Key features of the program are:

- This is a goal-oriented program
- It is race and gender neutral
- Participation is restricted to Louisiana-based certified SE's

WHY IS CERTIFICATION IMPORTANT?

Certification is required for your participation in the Small Entrepreneurship Program. In addition, this is one of the methods that the State of Louisiana will utilize as a basis for benchmarking for annualized procurement and contracting goals.

WHAT AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTIFICATION?

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development (LED) is responsible for certifying Small Entrepreneurships for participation in the program. Refer to the (LED) Small Business Certification System at http://www.ledsmallbiz.com. For additional information regarding certification, please contact John W. Matthews, Jr. or Craig Hartberg at LED (225)342-3000.

The State of Louisiana is committed to the success of this program and looks forward to your participation.